

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1, 10 and 40 are currently amended, and claim 9 is canceled. After the entry of the above amendments, claims 1-8 and 10-40 are pending, and claims 9 and 41-42 have been canceled.

The applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 5-7 and 11-35.

Claims 1-4 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Van Horn, et al (US 4,083,421). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the first carrier member includes a plurality of second planet gear openings for receiving a plurality of second planet gears and dimensioned such that each second planet gear is entirely exposed radially. Van Horn, et al discloses a two speed motorcycle hub transmission comprising three planet gears (44), wherein each planet gear (44) is rotatably supported on a corresponding stud (42) attached to a plate (52). Even if plate (52) and studs (42) were interpreted to be a first carrier member, Van Horn, et al neither discloses nor suggests a carrier member that includes a plurality of second planet gear openings for receiving a plurality of second planet gears and dimensioned such that each second planet gear is entirely exposed radially.

Claims 1-4, 8-10 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Katou, et al (US 6,422,971). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the first carrier member includes a plurality of second planet gear openings for receiving a plurality of second planet gears and dimensioned such that each second planet gear is entirely exposed radially. Katou, et al discloses a planetary carrier wherein three planet gears (pinions) (P1) and three planet gears (pinions) (P2) are housed between a cover (1) and a main body (2). The office action refers to planet gears (P1) and (P2) as corresponding to the plurality of first and second planet gears, respectively, recited in the claims.

In Katou, et al, main body (2) includes supporting walls (22) and connecting walls (24) and (25) that form U-shaped boxes for housing planet gears (P2). The connecting walls (24) and (25) are provided for strengthening the U-shaped boxes as recited at column 6, lines 10-15. However, providing such connecting walls results in a housing space wherein a portion of each planet gear (P2) is covered when viewed radially. Katou, et al actually teaches away from the presently claimed subject matter because entirely exposing the planet gears (P2) would weaken the planetary carrier.

Claims 36-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Katou, et al in view of Silvestri (US 4,187,740) and Bellman, et al (5,382,203). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons noted above.

Claim 40 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tabe (US 6,010,425) in view of Katou, et al. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

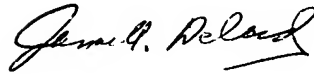
Like claim 1, claim 40 has been amended to clarify that the first carrier member includes a plurality of second planet gear openings for receiving a plurality of second planet gears and dimensioned such that each second planet gear is entirely exposed radially. As noted above, Katou, et al's connecting walls (24) and (25) result in a housing space wherein a portion of each planet gear (P2) is covered when viewed radially. Katou, et al teaches away from the presently claimed subject matter because entirely exposing the planet gears (P2) would weaken the planetary carrier.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

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Application No.: 10/033,658
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PATENT

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

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